

DRAFT
Governor Haley Barbour
Video for Tommy Dale Favre retirement
(Video taping Monday, September 21, 2009)

In 2004, we reorganized the state's workforce system into a new agency, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. I knew then that if I wanted the agency to run like a business, it would need a strong leader from the business community. And that's why I picked Tommy Dale Favre.

Little did she know just how much strength was needed for the job. After all, it was one thing to head a brand-new state agency, but no one knew managing MDES through the worst natural disaster in our history and the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression would be part of the job description.

Tommy Dale's leadership never faltered. A coast resident herself, she didn't hesitate to spring into action even when Hurricane Katrina washed away most everything along the Mississippi coastline - including jobs. I'm deeply grateful for her innovative, effective management of an agency that helped people hitch up their britches and get back to work.

Tommy Dale, Marsha and I appreciate your years of service and wish you the best. You've earned these retirement days, and I know you'll continue contributing to the coast's economic recovery by spending some time (and maybe a few bucks) on the golf course, or in the casinos, or just enjoying an afternoon pina colada. First one's on me!